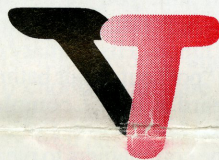
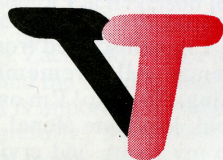


THE WEST



News edited by
Stacy Luck

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Mar 6 Sports Banquet 7 p.m.
- Mar 8 Lift-A-Thon 5:30 p.m.
- Mar 13 Half Day/Teacher Workshops
- Mar 13 Pops and Popcorn 7 p.m.
- Mar 18 First Tennis Match H 4 p.m.
- Mar 19 First Boys Track Meet A 4 p.m.
- Mar 19 First Girls Track Meet H 4 p.m.
- Mar 19 First Vars. Baseball A 4:15 p.m.
- Mar 20 Girls Soccer H 4 p.m.
- Mar 22 NEXT GAZETTE!
- Mar 26 Last Day To Register To Vote For April Election

Officer White: Man With A Mission

A new type of badge has been seen by most students here at West...that of a police officer.

Hazelwood Police Officer Ray White has brought his 25 years of experience to Hazelwood West in an effort to strengthen relations between students, the community, and law enforcement.

He is a graduate of UMSL, is married, and has a daughter that attends Parkway North High School.

Officer White believes that it is important to have an officer in the school, but not to watch for students breaking the law. "My main purpose is education and working with the students and staff," said Officer White.

Other schools, such as those in the Parkway School District, have found the program of having an officer in their school beneficial. Over the past few years, this

program has allowed students to get to know a police officer.

"I think that if something serious were to happen that it is a good idea to have the police there," said senior Rachel Penn.

On the other hand, senior Jeremy Zurbruggen said, "It makes me wonder because I didn't think we were that violent."

Officer White may be a deterrent to violence, but that is not the only reason he is here. His full time assignment is to work with the schools in West's sub-district.

Most of Officer White's time at Hazelwood West will be spent educating students and answering their questions about what police do and how the law affects juveniles. He is working on programs with the Driver's Education and law classes designed to teach students about the law and how it works.

Officer White believes in



PHOTO BY TONY WOLK

READY FOR ACTION...Officer White prepares to bring about wanted changes to Hazelwood West.

working together to portray the police as a "positive thing" to students. *Danielle Camarota*

Summer Approaches...

Renovations Come to Final Close

The peaceful sounds of drilling and hammering are about to become a thing of the past. According to Dr.

Sarah Spalding, the renovations at West are 95 percent completed. The initial deadlines of mid October to late November have missed their mark, and although the progress has been slow, the outcome should be well worth the wait.

Unfortunately, not all have been pleased with the progress so far. Mrs. Mary Simpson, math teacher, is just one of several teachers who have been experiencing the downfalls of the new heating system.

"Extremely frustrating," is how Mrs. Simpson describes room 108 which has been monitored at temperatures in the 90s. She is very displeased, and after long days of teaching has become sick from the heat.

Some students aren't too thrilled with the situation either. Senior Jason Hilsabeck said, "Some classrooms are just scorching, while others are like I have to bring a snowsuit." Senior Class vice president Nick Duckworth said, "I think they need to get their stuff together."

Mr. Doug Williamson, head of maintenance, and his staff have done their best in relieving the school from the varying temperatures that affect the students as they travel from class to class.

The air conditioning system is controlled by a master computer system which, in turn, controls the giant fans that circulate air throughout the building. Dr. Spalding explained that there is still work to be done on the master

computer, but once that's finished, the problems we're having with temperature should be over.

According to Mr. Williamson, the estimated price of these renovations will be about \$2.8 million. This cost is not just for our school, but to get the entire Hazelwood School District up and

running with new air conditioning and heating utilities.

Two months from now when spring sets in and summer approaches, we'll all be able to sit in comfort as we take in the cool breezes of air conditioning, thanks to the taxpayers. *Mike Buehler*

'Precious' Memories Made at Turnabout

"Precious and Few" was the theme for the 1995 Turnabout Dance. The Commons was decorated in pink, purple, and iridescent, with a 'Precious Moments' silhouette as the court's background.

The dance began with the lights dim and the feeling of fun in the air. The music, provided by Rent-A-Jock, was a variety of dance, rock, and R&B. Junior Angie McGovern said, "The music at first was okay, but it seemed

older. It got better after awhile."

There were 460 tickets sold for the dance.

Retiring king Mike Miner was unable to attend, so Shane Spencer's little sister Callie Sue handed the crown to the new king, Bob Meyer.

Turnabout was special to senior Shane Spencer because "being on court is something that I never got to experience until now."

Kim Kalal



PHOTO BY BO NORRIS

TURNABOUT COURT...Tyke Parrish, Rachel Penn, D.J. Henrichs, Brooke Lunatto, Brent Mannebach, Michelle Bohning, Trevor Gaylor, Andrea Uttech, John Justice, Shanna Daniels, Brandi Pierce, Shane Spencer, Annie Sesti, Bob Meyer, Matt Jennerjohn, Jenny Moore, Alissa Jones, Jesse Robertson, Jennifer Faerber, Damon Burkhardt, Stacy Meehan, Zach Ashley, Kim Kalal, and Matt Davis.

Prejudice Solved By Understanding

What's large but sometimes subtle, sometimes hurts or goes unnoticed? I'll give you a clue... you encounter it every day, a dozen times or more; prejudice and discrimination.

There are many different kinds of prejudices. So many we could fill an entire Gazette issue with all the different ways people are discriminated against.

How about the group you're in? For every group in school, there is an equal and opposite one; from music to activities, to dress, to religion, or even age or height.

"Who can say who is different?" asks junior Joel Blockman, who thinks dress is very important. People sometimes talk about the way he dresses, but Joel says it doesn't bother him.

Senior Andy Baxter's religious beliefs sometimes bring on negative comments from others. People talk about the Christian shirts he wears or the way he acts. Andy says, "Christianity is all about sharing my faith with others and showing them God's love...that's hard if they won't even listen."

Mr. Fowler, Thespian sponser, was upset over the last Gazette story about jocks and thespians. He says the problem comes from a lack of understanding. He adds, "People who are different are sometimes scary or even threatening to others."

One of the most common prejudices is between blacks and whites. Senior Henry Graham sees a lot of separation between races here at school, even though most people deny it exists. He said, "The steps to overcoming prejudices are to understand the differences. Take time to know the person and learn about who they are not what they are."

Mark Cessak

Just a Matter of THE FACTS

The cast of Li'l Abner will be Jesse Robertson (Abner Yokum), Beth Ann Puckett (Daisy Mae Scragg), Megan Favazza (Mammy Yokum), David Nord (Pappy Yokum), and Dan Pingel (Marryin' Sam). "It's a solid ensemble that will bring to life the characters created by Al Capp," said Mr. Richard Pisarkiewicz. "It's going to be very exciting." Show dates will be April 17, 18, 19, and 20 at 7 p.m. ✓

The Pridettes had a chance to show off their talents on February

when they performed at the Kiel Center for the St. Louis Ambush. The squad danced to "Scream" after first quarter and "Poing" at halftime. "This means a lot to me because I'm a senior and I organized the whole thing," said senior captain Michelle Bohning. The squad raised \$1500 by selling tickets to the game and made a profit of \$500 which will go towards awards at the end of the year. ✓

Students that are or will be 17 and a half by March 26, are being encouraged to register to vote. Mrs. Earnest will register students any time they want to go down and

register. The next election date is set for April 2. ✓

Students will be able to show their creative side in the Cat Tales Literary Magazine due out this spring. Miss Marla Kay Newsome will be taking submissions in IMC-3 until the end of April. The book will contain writings from 9-12 grade students. There is no theme for the book, so students can write anything appropriate to school. "I'm looking for very passionate things," said Miss Newsome, "that I can tell people took a lot of time with." She would like to see short stories, essays, poetry, prose and lyrics on things like moral issues

and issues facing the country. ✓

Kim Kalal

The annual Founder's Day Dinner was held February 15, 1996 at Hazelwood Central. This annual event is held to honor the district teacher of the year.

The teacher of the year was Mrs. Mary Giesemann of the Social Studies Department here at West. This year Hazelwood West was the host of the dinner. The West Senior High Concert choir and the Jazz Band provided the entertainment as the guests dined. ✓

Larry Helferty

About 30 students from the Hazelwood West DECA chapter competed in the district competition, which was held February 21, at Jamestown Mall. The following students won awards: Eric Ali, Michelle Bohning, Christy Chaney, Nyreshia Conwell, Jamie Gittemeier, Shanon Hussman, Lynn Hollenberg, Kelly Kientzy, Laura Mayberry, Tom Millikan, and Shane Spencer. These students will participate in state competition March 17, 18, and 19, at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at the Lake of the Ozarks. DECA sponsors are Mr. Doug McGhee and Mrs. Lisa Buchheit. *Kim Kalal*



Opinions edited by

Jessica Oberle

THE WEST

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College Funds Are Scarce

It's a problem many high school seniors face: where do I go to college? Student-teacher ratio, campus size, and academics are legitimate reasons to attend a college, but no factor affects the decision like cost.

The price of a college education is about equal to the national debt. Just like the national debt, the cost keeps going up. There is one real good way to pay for college, but since most of us are mere mortals, we aren't going to get a full scholarship for anything. This leaves us to three alternatives.

Lurking behind door one is the dreaded student loan. It is taken out before your freshman year of college and must be repaid within 5 to 7 years after graduation. There is one drawback to this option. Today's job market can't guarantee that jobs will be waiting after graduation. If there aren't any jobs, there's no money, and you still have a sizeable loan to pay off.

The second option hides behind door two, but it's only there for some. Everybody cheer for Federal Financial Aid. At first look this is our knight in shining armor, sent from heaven to put us through college. Then when you look closer into the fine print, it says

something like, "Ha Ha Ha, you thought we were going to help you." The government determines how much your family can spend on college according to your parents' income. The more money your parents make, the less money you will get for college if you get any at all. It's a shot to the heart.

Our third and final plan lives behind door number three. Before I bring it out, realize that it involves copious amounts of work, minimal amounts of sleep, and no life. Give a warm West welcome to...paying your own way through college. Stop laughing, it's possible. Paying your own way is

conceivable, but two things have to be considered. First, you won't have any money. If you can live with that, this may be the plan for you. Second it's hard for anyone to go to school full time and work full time so one could lose out.

Now I'll sum up the three options for those of us who are academically challenged. Choice one, the student loan. Today's job market=no job=debt. Choice number two, Federal Aid. Don't get your hopes up. Choice number three, pay your own way, and prepare to become very poor. Have a nice day.

Jessica Brandt



PHOTO BY JOSH NICHOLS AND SHANE SPENCER

Beyond Exteriors

The Great Importance of Respect

A boy enters his classroom in Washington State. Without hesitation, he raises a gun and shoots two classmates. Then, turning only slightly, shoots his teacher. All three die. Why did this happen? It was a simple lack of respect. Apparently, the boy had been continuously made fun of by classmates and in retaliation ended three lives. The boy's actions were irrational, but so was the torment that led to this sad event.

Why do people feel the need to make fun of others?

"I think people who make fun of other people generally have low self-esteem," said guidance counselor Mrs. Linda Ponath. "They are able to elevate their own self-esteem only at the expense of others. If you don't like the way someone looks, simply turn your head."

It seems that almost everyone agrees that all people should be treated with an equal amount of dignity and respect, but how many practice what they preach? It's easy to laugh along with friends, and even easier when those who are supposed to set an example are laughing as well.

"Teachers always tell you that you should respect others even though they may be different, but not even the teachers follow through on this belief," said senior Kelly Kientzy.

When teachers seem prejudiced to students that are different,

it sends a direct message to students. This results in students having less respect for people in general, and finding laughing along to be acceptable behavior.

Even though you may think it to be harmless, one little comment could push someone over the edge. Sometimes unusual looks or behavior are cries for attention. This means the particular individual has enough problems without the torment he or she will inevitably receive from others.

A few years ago a girl came to school, and because of the way she looked and dressed, was continuously harassed. Everyone laughed, until the day they noticed deep scars on her wrists. Only then did most people stop laughing and start thinking about her as a person with feelings, able to be hurt.

"Maturity is about respecting other people and their beliefs."

High school kids just aren't very mature," said senior Tonya Darabsek.

Nothing gives anyone the right to laugh. Most people know this. However, without maturity it's hard to realize that it's what's on the inside that counts. Putting oneself in the place of someone being made fun of would help one realize how real the effects are.

Freshman Chris Jarvis said, "Respect others as you would like to be respected."

Perhaps if more people would follow this advice, many lives would be much easier and happier. Everyone, not only the victims, but also the aggressors, would feel better about themselves. Possibly, if a few children in Washington State would not have lacked decency and respect, a few lives could have been saved.

Wendy Marbrough

The Ups and Downs of Dating

It seems like the worst day of your life. You and your significant other get in a huge fight over the silliest thing. It feels like your world has ended and everything is falling apart. But why?

The feeling of being in love is tremendous, but breaking up or being hurt can be overwhelming at our age. We are still young, and have all our lives to be committed to one special person and let our lives revolve around that person. Not all serious relationships are unhealthy at our age, but some can get out of hand.

Senior Andrea Harris recalls a time when she was broke up with her boyfriend and was over at another guy's house. Her ex-boyfriend found out and he and his friends went there. "It was so embarrassing because all of these old people and my ex-boyfriend were fighting in the street!"

You simply cannot live your life for your boyfriend or girlfriend only. It will lead to unhappiness and unfulfillment in the end. Some people lose good friends over relationships. Others fight so much, they don't have time for anything except being depressed.

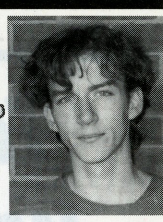
You think you're in love and you'll be with your honey forever. In reality, there's a slim chance you will end up getting married, much

less stay together over a couple years. Sometimes you can love someone too much; then possessiveness and jealousy become everyday factors in non-trusting, non-communicating relationships.

The relationships that work and last involve maturity and the realization that the other person needs occasional personal space. They overcome problems by talking things out, maintaining an easy-going attitude, and treating each other with respect.

Junior Joel Blockman describes the great relationship his girlfriend Jenny Mitchell and he share: "No matter what people say,

Sound Off



Sound off is my opportunity to give opinions on several different topics. They really aren't in any order so don't strain yourself while reading.

Since when is it all right to speak for others? Well, according to the thespian/jock article in the Gazette's last issue, I apparently despise and look down on all jocks. I also apparently enjoy wearing spam around my neck. Oh, and have you seen my bright purple hair? It doubles as a great nightlight.

Cough, wheez, gag. These could be my reactions from inhaling asbestos or any other toxic chemical. But for this oxygen-lover, it's from entering our restrooms as of late. I'm only trying to wash my hands, but it's kind of difficult when I can't find the faucet! If all of you smoking bandits could just wait until school's out to light your cancer sticks, we'd all be a lot healthier and happier. Smoking happens to be the leading cause of lung cancer everywhere. Take it from Yoko Ono: "Breathe".

If Bob Dole becomes president, I will leave the country.

Did anyone else receive trauma when their parents told them about the "birds and the bees"? I'm still scarred from that experience. All I remember is screaming, "No! No! I'm only ten years old, leave me alone!" running to my room, and crying all night. Thanks, Dad.

I'm sure you've noticed the police officer roaming our friendly halls at lunch. His primary duty is to keep "pot" out of our bathrooms. I've heard a lot of complaining about his being here. I'd just like to tell the complainers to please BE QUIET! He's just doing his job. You have to feel sorry for him—being assigned to sit in an extremely safe school isn't very exciting.

If people were talking about me behind my back, I could have put a statement of defense right here.

My last comment is: Marc Schneider is not responsible for these opinions.

Marc Schneider

Reader's Response

Editors of the "West Gazette,"

I strongly oppose the article, "Thespians and Athletes Face Off," in the January 26, 1996 issue. I am a Thespian, but I don't look down on athletes in any way. Both journalists wrote their articles in poor taste. I do not believe that Thespians and Athletes should be pitted against each other. There are athletes who act in the plays or the musical. An example is my brother. He is a wrestler and was in *Rebel Without a Cause*. I think the focus of a school newspaper is to unify, not to divide. I also don't believe that either writer expresses the opinion of the majority from the groups they are representing. I understand that the article was on an opinion page, but it was written as if everyone felt this way. The "Gazette's" responsibility is to keep the good standard of journalism of this school up. This article was a failure of this standard.

Casey Henrichs, junior Thespian Historian

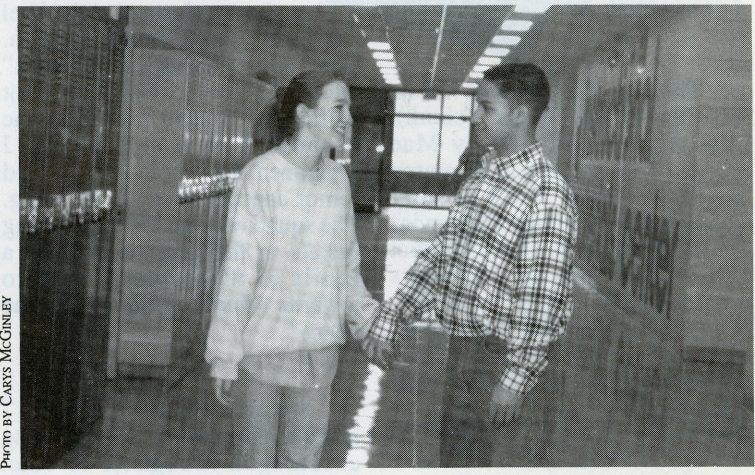
DAHS

- To those who bought the new Gazette and liked it.
- To all the gals who asked a man to Turnabout.
- To the winners of the DECA competition. Congrats!
- To spring sports starting.
- To people who took challenging classes instead of blow-off ones.
- To the warm weather headed our way. It's about time.
- To those who went to Turnabout and had fun.
- To those who can handle playing a sport and working at the same time. Good Job!
- To the Thursday night line up on NBC. You know you watch it.

BLAHS

- To seniors who have no idea of what they are going to do after graduation.
- To Blimpie's. They're just not Subway.
- To people who were stingy on Valentine's Day. How do you feel now that your sweetheart is not talking to you?
- To the lack of student parking. It would be nice if we didn't have to walk from Undercliff in the freezing weather.
- To drivers who go 10 mph under the speed limit. What's the problem?
- To stupid music award shows. Who do those judges think they are anyway!

Michael Saal



TEEN LOVE...Juniors Jenny Mitchell and Joel Blockman believe they have an ideal relationship based on give and take.

PHOTO BY CARYS MCGINLEY

Caught In the Fast Lane...

Teens 'Fess Up To Run Ins With the Law

For many of us, having a license means freedom. For others it means tickets. If you've been pulled over, you know the feeling...your heart starts pounding, you begin to sweat, you quickly try to slip on your seatbelt so you don't get an additional ticket. You know deep down, though, that it's too late...you're busted!

Unless of course you can talk your way out of it. Senior Jenny Lauser has talked her way out of two speeding tickets.

However, for the unfortunate speeders who aren't smooth talkers, those tickets can get costly. For

example, junior Tom Behle has a grand total of 13 tickets. "I've gotten out of every single one by a lawyer, though," says Tom. Well, Tom might not have any points on his record, but paying for a lawyer every time will empty your pocketbook.

Junior Rob Blankenship knows all about that. He is currently paying off a ticket for driving 50 mph in a 30 mph zone. "When the cop asked to see my license, it was altered, so the cops frisked me and searched my car," said Rob.

Senior Ellen Gadberry's car was searched when she failed to

show her license when she got pulled over for speeding.

Hazelwood police officer Ray White believes he very well might be one of the "biggest ticket writers in Hazelwood." Many students feel that they are getting the short end of the stick when it comes to receiving tickets. However, he disagrees that teenage drivers receive more tickets than any other age group. In fact, Officer White believes middle-aged drivers receive more tickets, because they feel they have been driving long enough to have experience, yet they are not old enough to lose their ability.

"Teenagers usually get tickets while they are together, because they are showing off for each other," said Officer White. He also said that tickets are not handed out to every car that gets pulled over. "Warnings are given out to drivers who either made an honest mistake or were not endangering anyone or other cars on the road."

So, now the question is: Where should you let off the gas? Officers aren't supposed to look for any certain color or make of car, or a person's race or age. So, you should keep an eye out for police cars that are clocking people

where accidents usually occur or where speed limits change drastically. One example is around the two elementary schools on Howdershell.

So, teen drivers, here's a word of advice: Keep your foot off the gas, make complete stops, and always carry your license and insurance. These three things should keep you from calling the Traffic Law Hotline.

Amy Sharp



PHOTO BY TONY WOLK

FAST LANE...Junior Rob Blankenship, senior Jennifer Lauser, and junior Tom Behle recall close encounters with the law.

Money Gives Students The Desire to Work

Jobs. Some of us hate them, some of us love them. As teenagers, we go through a whirlwind of jobs. Why? Because we all want money.

In our high school years, jobs can vary from working at McDonald's, to being an assistant to a personal contractor. Jobs contain both positive and negative points.

Senior Zach Nelson loves his job as a personal contractor's assistant. Zach said, "I like the freedom and the flexible hours."

It is important to choose your job carefully. Make sure it is the job you want, with hours you can handle, or it could cause poor attendance. Your work habits now are important for future jobs.

Having freedom and being able to choose hours are not the only factors teens look for in a job. An easy, well paying job is always on top of the list. For senior Christy Stretch, getting paid to stand by a patch of ice at Busch Stadium was the ideal job for her.

"Informing patrons to watch their step is not a bad job for \$7 an hour," she said.

It always helps to make your work day go by faster if it includes being with friends. Sophomore Zach Ashley said, "I like my job because of the people I work with."

Unfortunately there is always a negative side to working. Junior Mindy Johnston said, "I dread pushing carts in from Schnucks' parking lot, even though it makes me buff."

If leaving your job is on your

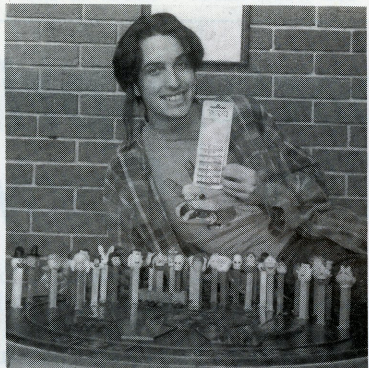
mind, be sure to give advanced notice, so that you are more likely to get a good reference when you apply for your next job.

Although they're not always as much as you hope for, Friday's paychecks definitely make it all worthwhile. *Jacqueline Walker*

Curious Collectors Treasure Extraordinary Oddities

Baseball cards, coins, and stamps. These are common items collected by students. But not all people like their collections to be "normal."

Senior Nik Degler said, "I have a collection of over 45 Pez dispensers. The candy is so good and keen. My favorites are the old



CHECK IT OUT...Senior Nik Degler shows off his collection of 45 Pez candy dispensers.

Captain America and the old Joker. I also have four packs of cherry Pez straight from Canada. They are a tantalizing, scrumptious delight."

Senior Christopher G. Wolf spends his time obtaining ashtrays. "I have approximately 50 ashtrays, and my collection is ever-growing as any good collector would say. I use them for candy dishes, change holders, candle holders, and obviously ashtrays."

Students aren't the only ones at West who have an unusual collection. Music teacher Mr. Wade Dowdy said, "I have about 500-600 key chains from 21 countries and numerous states. I started collecting with an ivory key chain from Austria that I received from my grandparents when I was 12."

Some students aren't happy with their collection, while others plan on putting theirs to good use. Junior Lee Hamilton said, "I have

been collecting parking tickets for over a year." Sophomore Bryan Kloos said, "Lately, I have been collecting pencils from the floors at school. I hope to build a house out of them one day."

Junior Dan Thacker said, "I collect knives, and not just pocket knives. One is a knife that is used to cut open alligators. I have a bayonet knife from World War II that was used on the ends of the guns. I also have one from China that they stuck in the sides of their boots. Those are my three favorite knives."

Most of us like to collect something, and these people have shown that it is interesting and fun to collect something a little bit unusual. So if you are out one day and you see something you like, pick it up. You may get started on a life-long collection.

Gold Blalock

Patience Called For In Everyday Situations

Have you ever been standing in line for the restroom thinking to yourself, "If I have to wait any longer there's going to be a huge clean-up in aisle three." Or, have you ever been late for work and you're stuck behind "Driving Miss Daisy." If so, you are one of many people who have found themselves in a battle with the P word: Patience!

Patience: adj. 1. Enduring affliction with calmness. 2. Tolerant; understanding. 3. Persevering; steadfast.

Some of West's finest had their own definitions of patience.

"Patience is when you stay calm in the midst of being disturbed," said sophomore Nick Downey.

Practical Arts teacher Mr. Jay Boleach said, "It's staying with a student to help him or her understand a concept or task."

In a society that's picking up its pace every day, it's almost safe to say that this scarce virtue is on its way to extinction.

Cars, computers, even fast food are constantly being pushed for speed because consumers don't want to deal with having to use a little patience.

"People don't understand that it takes awhile to get their food ready if I'm working the drive-thru by myself. They say rude comments because they have to wait," said senior Jennifer Carter, who is an employee at Hardee's restaurants.

Maybe you've been on the other end of the spectrum. Have you ever been knocked silly in the halls, or come close to a tragic car accident because someone skipped the patience lesson in kindergarten?

In the course of everyone's life there are bound to be situations when things will be crowded, rushed, and just plain awkward. If we all can cash in on a little patience, it could help someone's life and ours also, even if its cost is a clean-up in aisle three. *Michelle Johnson*

Don't Tell Anyone, But...

ssst... Come here, I have something to tell you."

How many times has someone told you something you weren't expecting to hear? Some students recently revealed some of their biggest, funniest, and most embarrassing secrets.

Senior Billy Doherty was seen wearing women's underwear after a friend's dad bought them for a joke. Right idea, wrong gender.

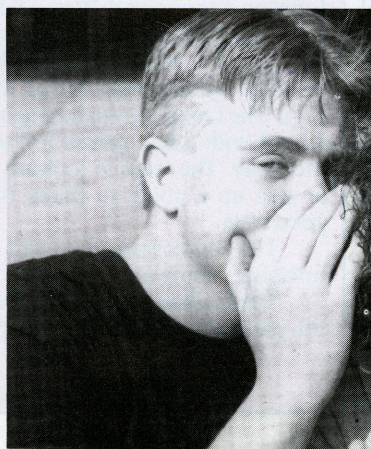


PHOTO BY TONY WOLK

CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?...Junior Scott Everingham tells senior Tasha Johnson a story hidden in his past.

Most people like pizza, but eating it at certain times could be a mistake. Senior Sam Madi had two slices about an hour before his lifeguard training class. The class had to swim several laps that day. Madi was next seen running for the locker room. No one knew until now that he made it as far as the entrance before he threw up in the showers.

Junior Scott Everingham would much rather forget his fifth grade picture. When everyone saw

the picture, they asked him what it was on his forehead. Scott told everyone that he fell and hit his head, but he has finally confessed that it was really his first monster zit.

Remember those videos that you can make at Six Flags where you sing and dance to the song of your preference? Well, senior Dan Hasecamp made a video at Northwest Plaza in seventh grade, singing and dancing to "The Humpty Dance" by Digital Underground.

Have you ever awakened from a nightmare drenched in sweat? Senior Steve Stanfill awakened from his dreams many times, not sopping with sweat, but with another problem. Steve said, "I wet the bed until I was in seventh grade." Some guys keep this secret because of it's embarrassing.

Every little kid has the fantasy of becoming a famous rock star. Junior Stephanie Wacker thought she might have been the next Madonna after singing into a recorder and playing it back to hear it.

No matter how embarrassing you think your secret is, remember that there is always someone else making a bigger fool of themselves. *Tasha Johnson*



Features edited by

Melissa Brown

Mike's Mystical Horoscopes

Capricorn (12-21,1-19) It's a good month to spend some meditative time alone.

Aquarius (1-20,2-18) There's someone in your life with whom you need to have a heart-to-heart talk when they need you the most.

Pisces (2-19,3-20) Right now it's best to give your brother or sister some extra space and privacy.

Aries (3-21,4-20) Keep in mind that jealousy is often an irrational emotion, so think twice before doing something dramatic.

Taurus (4-21,5-20) Leaving your house will give you a lot more opportunities to meet people and to make some new friends.

Gemini (5-21,6-21) Enjoy the fun while it lasts, because pretty soon you'll have some heavy responsibilities that may weigh you down for some time.

Cancer (6-22,7-22) That same shy person who liked you last year might find the courage to tell you this year.

Leo (7-23,8-22) Brave-hearted lions will find themselves out on a limb trying to help a friend in need.

Virgo (8-23,9-22) You're feeling pressure this month to do something against your better judgment...DON'T DO IT.

Libra (9-23,10-22) Surprise! The person you've liked for the past four years is about to give you a chance.

Scorpio (10-23,11-21) It's time to clean up your things, Scorpio—you guys are slob.

Sagittarius (11-22,12-20) Be very careful how you spend your money; it may come back to haunt you later on. *Mike Stanfill*



Sports edited by

Pat Hawn

Majic Sparkles in Return

Magic Johnson returned to the NBA on Tuesday, January 30, after retiring four years ago when he contracted the HIV virus. Johnson returned against the Golden State Warriors and scored 19 points, grabbed 8 rebounds, and dished out 10 assists in a Los Angeles victory.

Magic was received with a warm welcome and a packed Forum. The fan support did not come as a surprise to many West students. Senior Henry Graham said, "I think he will be a productive player and draw more fans."

Now that the NBA and society are more educated about HIV, Magic has been accepted. Out of 50 West students polled, 64 percent liked Magic's comeback, 24 percent didn't, and 12 percent didn't care. In the NBA, only Vernon Maxwell of the Philadelphia 76'ers, has spoken negatively about the comeback.

There wasn't always such communal support for a comeback. In 1992, Magic attempted

can you 'dig' it? This question will be on the minds of the newly sanctioned volleyball team this season.

For the past eight years, the guys volleyball team has not been sponsored by the school. This year, that has all changed. The school will now provide uniforms, officials, and transportation to the games for

the team.

Many of the players are very excited about the new sponsorship. "It's great! It's about time we got it," said junior volleyball player Kurt Lett.

This year there will be three returning seniors: Gary Firle, Pat Hawn, and Bob Meyer.

"It's always great to start off the season fresh," says

Coach Ken Archibald. This year he sees only positive things happening for the team.

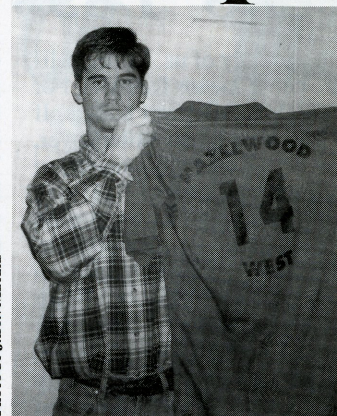
Senior Pat Hawn is looking forward to the season, "We should compete favorably in our conference," he said.

Girls are also very interested in the newly sanctioned sport. Junior volleyball player Kara Gentry says, "It's good that finally they are recognized as a sport, and not an extracurricular activity."

The guys have begun practices, and the first game is March 26, at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Although there is no state tournament this year, there will be a district tournament.

The guys volleyball team will be receiving new coverage in the yearbook, as well as the school newspaper. The players and managers will receive letters for their hard work and effort. "It's good that we will get a letter this year," says senior Chris O'Neal.

The newly sanctioned sport



SCHOOL COLORS... Senior Bob Meyer checks out a new boys volleyball jersey.

took one year to finalize. Activities and administrative directors throughout the state of Missouri filled out questionnaires and voted on the sponsorship.

West activities director Mr. Dennis Coffel says, "It's exciting and welcomed by all the schools that are promoting this program."

Andrea Uttech



HARD AT WORK... Junior swim manager Paul Trusik helps with the lane ropes at a practice.

Hard-workers Fill Manager's Role

Timing, record keeping, handling equipment, and supporting the players are all roles of the manager. They assist the players and coaches, in what they need. No matter how much they do or how hard they work, managers are often overlooked.

Junior Jamie Stauffer, varsity swim manager says, "Without managers, the swimmers would have a very hard time at practice." The swim managers time the players during practices and competitions. They also record any records set. It would be very difficult for athletes to time themselves or for the coach to keep the statistics on all 20-plus players. If an athlete needs

equipment, it is also up to the manager to get what he or she needs.

Regardless of the sport these guys and girls manage, they always seem to be busy. Managers must attend all practices and competitions. This means endless hours for sophomore Gretchen Soderberg who does double duty by managing varsity guys swimming in the winter and varsity guys tennis in the spring. "I put in 6 to 8 hours of work a week for swimming, and at least 10 hours for tennis," said Soderberg. Most managers agree, it's a non-stop job.

Like the coaches, managers work hard. "Most of the

time the players respect the managers," senior Rachel Penn, varsity football manager, says, "Most players are easy to get along with. Some of them were sort of like my big brothers."

Many athletes agree, managers are a very important asset to the team and they help it run smoothly. Sophomore Alicia Bell, girls varsity basketball player, said, "Managers can save a lot of time that teams can use for practicing. The athletes don't have to worry about anything other than working their hardest."

According to junior cross country runner Mark Huebbe, "Managers are 'the bomb'."

Chris Smith

West Stays in Shape As Winter Comes to Close

Whether it's pumping iron at the gym or doing Buns of Steel at home, everyone has their own way of staying in shape.

For some, the main goal of exercising is to improve their physical appearance. For others, exercising helps to develop skills needed to succeed at a sport or area of interest. After school sports help many students stay in shape. "I play soccer, and on the days I don't have practice I run and occasionally lift weights," freshman J.J. Dore said about his exercise program.

For those who do not participate in school sports, staying in shape is still a concern. For sophomore Krista Stroud, staying in shape involves doing exercise videos and sit-ups every day. Many students just do not have much time. "Working at

my job takes up time, but I try to play basketball two days a week for at least an hour," junior Nick Wiegand said.

Whether you are trying to lose weight, or just keep in shape, diet and exercise go hand in hand. Before beginning a diet and exercise program consult your doctor. "Start off slow and easy; you will not make rapid gains in a short amount of time," trainer Mr. Marty Opfer said. "Set goals on a long term basis. Always stretch before and after exercising to guard against injuries."

Whether it is cheating on your diet or skipping a day of exercising, don't get down on yourself. Remember you're only human. Staying in shape involves having a positive attitude and just having fun.

Kim Schaefer

Athletes Fight Burn Out

Iwanted to quit because it gets frustrating," said varsity basketball player Terrance Lee. "All the pressure from coaches makes it tough. I didn't quit because I'm not a quitter." Many student athletes feel the effect of sports burnout. Practicing day in and day out becomes very tiring.

Senior Rob Wilson was a competitive diver for 3 1/2 years, competing 10 months out of the year. Rob said, "I became burnt out on the pressure of winning and what was expected of me. It came to where it wasn't for fun, just for the victory."

Senior Tom Roberson participates in three sports. "I wish I could have time off because

the season seems to drag on. Sometimes you want to give up, but you know your teammates are counting on you, so you keep going."

This feeling seems to be on the rise among students who participate in sports year round. Many athletes get burnt out on the practices. But junior Devin Banks points out, "If you don't practice, you can't get better."

Although many athletes get burnt out, they seem to stick with their sports. Three sport sophomore Karen Uttech says, "When I think I've had too much, I keep pushing myself knowing someday all the time and effort I've put in will pay off."

Jamie Hassler

Winter Sports Wrap Up

Boy's Basketball

The Varsity team finished their season with a 17-8 record, tying them for tops in the conference. The Cats had high hopes heading into districts with a fourth place ranking.

The JV Cats finished their season with a record of 7-18. The freshman team finished strong with a 12-5 record.

Wrestling

The varsity wrestlers finished with a 500 mark of 7-7. Keith Lucco, Dave Middendorf, Shane Stewart, and Tom Roberson represented West at the state meet with Stewart placing sixth.

The JV squad finished 8-3 on the season and placed in the top five in two tournaments. The team had a good season and is looking forward to next year. The freshmen finished 8-3 and were undefeated in conference play. Matt Davis, Domonique Crittenden both won a conference title.

Swimming

The swim team finished with a record of 9-6 and a conference record of 5-3. Mark Johnson represented West at State in the 50 yard Freestyle and the 100 yard Breaststroke.

Girls Basketball

The varsity team ended with a record of 8-11. The LadyCats are hoping to improve their record with a few games left and also in district play. The team is looking for the seniors to step up a notch to finish the season on a good note.

The sophomore team had a tough season finishing with a 6-10 record.

The freshman LadyCats finished their season just below the 500 mark at 6-7.

Brian Smith

Spring Cats Ready for Season

Nobody is looking forward to spring more than the spring athletes of Hazelwood West.

The baseball team is confident with seven senior starters returning. Senior Josh Galati says "We're going to have a perfect season, win state, and there are no ifs, ands, or buts about it."

Something new for West this spring is sanctioned boy's volleyball. Senior Dave Kingston is looking forward to the season and says, "We're going to be good, real good. We got big hitters."

The track teams will have a tough time filling the shoes of graduates in distance races and field events. Senior Henry Graham thinks the teams will still be good because there are a lot of people trying out.

The guys tennis team is looking good with many returning players. Junior Garry Garrison has high hopes for the season. "Hopefully I'll make it to state this year," said Garrison.

The golf team has a lot of returning talent, but lost team leader Phil Bangert. "Everybody on the team should do well. We've all really improved," said junior Bob Sheron.

The girls swim team is going to have a young team this year, but junior Emily Ragland said, "Half of our team is going to be new, but I think if we work hard we will do well at conference."

The Lady Wildcat soccer team is expecting to have a great season. Junior Melissa Klein said, "I'm looking forward to the season since it will be my last year playing with the seniors."

Spring sports are upon us and all of the teams are ready for the season. The baseball team has all the confidence in the world, and the track team has to rebuild a little. The spring sports are bound to bring excitement to Hazelwood West.

David July